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Explain: `#!/bin/bash` - or `#!/bin/bash --` In A Shell Script

Author: Vivek Gite • Last updated: September 23, 2008 • [12 comments](#)

Q. I know `#!/bin/bash` is [shebang line](#). But, I noticed a few shell script shebang line ends with a single dash (`#!/bin/bash -`) or double dash (`#!/bin/bash --`). Can you explain the purpose of such shebang line?



A. A `-` or `--` signals the end of options and disables further option processing i.e. bash will not accept any of its option. Any arguments after the `--` are treated as filenames and arguments. An argument of `-` is equivalent to `--`. This is done to improve script security. Some user may perform setuid based script root spoofing. To avoid interpreter spoofing you need to add `--` to `#!/bin/bash`. This is rare but possible attack.

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irado • Sep 23, 2008 @ 11:12

man bash:

” — A — signals the end of options and disables further option processing. Any arguments after the — are treated as filenames and arguments. An argument of — is equivalent to —.

“

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henry • Sep 23, 2008 @ 13:31

Hello,

Please, any possible book i could study more on shell programming? Please, this is the second mail i am sending and i haven't got a reply.

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marco • Sep 23, 2008 @ 13:57

> henry 'any possible book i could study more on shell programming?':

Richard Stones, Neil Matthew – Beginning Linux Programming

ISBN-13: 9780764543739

12,20\$

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0764543733>

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Johan • Sep 23, 2008 @ 14:38

“Advanced Bash-Scripting Guide” is a great book available at the Linux Documentation Project's website – <http://tldp.org/guides.html>

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 **nixCraft** • Sep 23, 2008 @ 15:14

Mastering UNIX Shell Scripting: Books by Randal K. Michael

Oreilly Classic Shell Scripting

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dj • Sep 25, 2008 @ 17:09

Henry, try “Linux Command” site at:

<http://www.linuxcommand.org/>

The author is in process of writing a book, but imho, if the goal is to teach bash, the site gets an A+. He walks through a real example. It's good clean code.

You'll learn to do it right.

Then I would look at “The Linux Documentation Project” at:

<http://tldp.org/HOWTO/Bash-Prog-Intro-HOWTO.html>

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marco • Sep 25, 2008 @ 18:26

> DJ “<http://www.linuxcommand.org/>”

That seems to be a real good source. :)

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cucho • Dec 16, 2012 @ 16:01

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tom • Nov 6, 2009 @ 8:38

when i loggin into redhat as an user . i got a prompt like this -bash-3.1\$

how i can change that into normal user prompt.....

pls

thank you

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runner724 • Dec 9, 2009 @ 16:53

you can set whatever prompt you like with

set PS1="[newprompt]"; export PS1

but you'll have to set the prompt every time you log in, unless you can edit the hidden bash profile that should be in your home dir

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Anonymous • Jun 15, 2010 @ 22:57

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
SERVERIP=192.168.23.18
```

```
LOGFILE=/home/user/backup.log
```

```
rsync -avz --delete --numeric-ids \
```

```
--exclude=".Trash" \
```

```
--exclude="Downloads" \
```

```
$HOME $SERVERIP:backups/user/ 1>$LOGFILE
```

what does this mean?

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Fred • Oct 20, 2010 @ 15:31

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